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SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1900.

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THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

WE are able to publish through the courtesy of the President of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Wolcott Gibbs, the correspondence arranging for the conference of Scientific Societies held at Wiesbaden on the 9th and 10th of October, 1899. We hope to be able to publish later through the courtesy of Professor H. P. Bowditch, delegate from the National Academy of Sciences, an account of the Conference based on the official proceedings. It is scarcely necessary to call attention to the great importance of the plans of the Conference for the advancement of science and for the good understanding between nations to which the advancement of science is largely contributing.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY, BURLINGTON HOUSE,
LONDON, W., April 14, 1899.

SIR: The Royal Society has frequently had occasion to take action in respect to scientific undertakings calling for the coöperation of several countries, and undertakings of this nature show a tendency to increase. The experience of the Society has lead to the belief that it would be very advantageous to the interests of science generally if some machinery could be devised, by means of which suggestions made for international coöperation in scientific enquiries could be thoroughly discussed by the leading men of science from a purely scientific point of view, before definite proposals are made with a view to official action by the Governments of the countries concerned.

With this view, the Royal Society has communicated with the leading scientific Academies of Europe, whose replies give much encouragement to the idea that it may be possible to establish an organization, under which formal and regular meetings of representatives of all leading scientific Academies may be held for the purpose of discussing scientific matters calling for international coöperation, and by this means preparing the way for international action. The Council of the Royal Society regard this question as one of great importance, and I am to request you to bring it before your Academy, and to ask whether that body would be prepared to join such an organization if established, and to coöperate in arranging the details for inaugurating it upon a practical working basis.

I have the honor to be

Very faithfully yours,

(Signed) LISTER,
President, R. S.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, WASHINGTON, D. C., U. S. A.

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES,
WASHINGTON, May 12, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of April the 14th last asking me to bring before the National Academy of Sciences a plan to establish an organization under which formal and regular meetings of representatives of all leading scientific academies may be held for the purpose of discussing scientific matters calling for international coöperation and by this means preparing the way for international action.

There is no meeting of the National Academy of Sciences until the 14th of November next, but I will lay the matter at once before the Council of the Academy for consideration.

I cannot doubt that the subject will receive its warm approval and that the Academy, on the recommendation of the Council, will accept and cordially join in carrying out the plan proposed. I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) WOLCOTT GIBBS,
President of the National Academy of Sciences.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY,
LONDON, ENGLAND.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY,
BURLINGTON HOUSE, LONDON, W.,
May 31, 1899.

Sir: On the 17th November of last year the President of the Royal Society addressed a letter to the Academie des Sciences of Paris, the Reale Accademia dei Lincei of Rome, and the Academie Imperiale des Sciences of St. Petersburg, in reference to a proposal that the leading Academies should meet at intervals to discuss matters which might demand international coöperation; and a similar letter was subsequently addressed to the National Academy of Sciences of Washington.

The letter was written in consequence of what had taken place at a meeting of German Academies at Göttingen in June of that year, at which representatives of the Royal Society were present; and we have communicated to a meeting of the same Academies which has just been held at Munich the favorable replies which we have received from each of the Academies whom we had addressed.

We have now the pleasure to inform you that the invitation to a meeting at Wiesbaden, on October 9 and 10, which this letter accompanies, is a step towards carrying out the proposal in question, and we sincerely hope that your Academy will be able to take part in the meeting, which is intended to be a preliminary one for the purpose of discussing the mode in which such an Association of Academies can be best organized.

We are, sir,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed) M. FOSTER,
ARTHUR W. RÜCKER.
Secretaries, R. S.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Washington, D. C., U. S. A.

KÖNIGLICHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN.
BERLIN, den 13, Juni, 1899.

Die Königlich Preussische Akademie der Wissenschaften in Berlin beehrt sich im Verfolg ihres am 1. ds. Mts. abgesandten Einladungsschreibens zu einer Conferenz in Wiesbaden am 9 und 10 October ds. Js. behufs Grundung einer

internationalen Association gelehrter Gesellschaften anbei den von den Akademien in Berlin, Göttingen, Leipzig, München und Wien vorläufig vereinbarten Plan der Grundung ganz ergebenst zur Kenntniss zu bringen. Weitere Vorschläge über die Einzelheiten der Organization und Geschäftsführung, die als Vorlage zur Discussion auf der Wiesbaden Conferenz dienen sollen, wird unsere Akademie sich erlauben in kürzester Frist nachzusenden. Wir bitten aber uns schon jetst mittheilen zu wollen, ob die National Academy in Washington principiell geneigt ist an jenen Conferenz durch Absendung von Vertretern sich zu betheiligen und uns Namen und Adresse derselben bald gefälligst zur Verfügung zu stellen. DIELS,

Der vorsitzende Secretar.

AN DIE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, WASHINGTON.

KÖNIGLICHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN.

BERLIN, den 24, Juli, 1899.

Die Königliche Akademie der Wissenschaften, welche die Delegirten Ihrer Akademie am 9. und 10. October auf der Conferenz in Wiesbaden zu begrüssen hofft, übersendet anbei 'Vorschläge zur Organization und Geschäftsführung,' die als Unterlage der Verhandlung dienen können. Genaueres über Versammlungsort und Stunde wird den Delegirten später direct mitgetheilt werden. Zu diesem Zweck ersucht die Akademie Namen und Adresse der Delegirten bis spätestens Ende September an das 'Bureau der Königlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften' Berlin N. W. Universitätsstrasse 8, gefälligst einsenden zu wollen.

Zum Schluss beehrt sich die Akademie mitzutheilen, das sie ihrerseits ihre Mitglieder die Herren Auwers, Virchow und Diels zur Conferenz delegirt hat. DIELS,

Der vorsitzende Secretar der Königlich Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.

AN DIE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, WASHINGTON, D. C., U. S. A.

KÖNIGLICHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN.

N. W. 7 Universitätsstrasse 8.

BERLIN, den Juni, 1899.

Die Königlich Preussische Akademie der Wissenschaften in Berlin beehrt sich im Auftrage der am 23. Mai ds. Js. in München versammelten deutschen Akademien und in Einverständniss mit der Royal Society, deren Regleitschreiben beigefügt ist, die National Academy, Washington, zum Zwecke der Gründung einer internationalen Association gelehrter Gesellschaften auf den 9. und 10. October ds. Js. nach Wiesbaden zu einer constituirenden, Conferenz einzuladen.

Diese Einladung ergeht gleichzeitig an die Königlichen Gesellschaften der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen und Leipzig, Königliche Akademie der Wissenschaften in München, Académie des Sciences in Paris, Kaiserliche Academie der Wissenschaften in St. Petersburg, Reale Accademia dei Lincei in Rom, National Academy in Washington, Kaiserliche Academie der Wissenschaften in Wien.

Der Zweck der Association ist, wissenschaftliche Unternehmungen, welche von der Gesammtheit der vereinigten Körperschaften oder von einer Gruppe derselben oder von einer einzelnen derselben in Angriff genommen oder empfohlen werden, zu unterstützen und sich über Einrichtungen zur Erleichterung des wissenschaftlichen Verkehrs zu verständigen. Jeder einzelnen Körperschaft soll die Entschliessung über die Theilnahme sowie über Mittel und Wege von Fall zu Fall vorbehalten sein.

Es wird Aufgabe der Wiesbaden Conferenz, sein, Organization und Geschäftsordnung dieser Association zu berathen und über etwaige Aufnahme anderer gelehrter Gesellschaften Beschluss zu fassen. Ein genaueres Programm wird binnen kurzem den eingeladenen Academien zugestellt werden.

Vorläufig wird aus den zunächst fur die Wiesbaden Conferenz geltenden Bestimmungen mitgetheilt, dass jede Academie eine beliebige, nach ihrem Ermessen zu bestimmende Anzahl von Vertretern entsendet, die Abstimmungen jedoch nach Academien stattfinden. Die Sprache der Verhandlungen ist frei. Die Protokolle werden deutsch, englisch und französisch geführt.

Es wird in Aussicht genommen auf diese constituirende Conferenz in Weisbaden die erste Arbeitsconferenz der Association im Jahre 1900, und zwar in Paris, folgen zu lassen.

Nach Eingang der in Aussicht gestellten Bestimmungen und Vorschläge bitten wir eine Erklärung über die Beschickung der Wiesbaden Conferenz unter Mittheilung der Namen der Delegirten an unser oben angegebenes Bureau gelangen zu lassen.

DIELS,
Der vorsitzende Secretar.

PLAN FOR THE FOUNDATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LEARNED SOCIETIES, SUBMITTED BY THE ACADEMIES AT BERLIN, GÖTTINGEN, LEIPZIG, MUNICH AND VIENNA.

1. The formation of an International Association of the larger learned Societies of the world is regarded as expedient and as likely to prove of service to the advancement of science.

2. The object of this Association is to support scientific enterprises undertaken or recommended by the united Societies in common, or by a group of the same, or by any individual Society, and, further, to make arrangements for facilitating international scientific intercourse. Each Society shall, as regards any particular undertaking, reserve to itself the right of deciding whether it will participate or not.

3. At the conference to be held at Wiesbaden the organization of the Association and its business details will be more fully discussed, deciding at the same time, whether periodical meetings say every three or five years, shall be held, or whether such meetings shall take place at irregular intervals, as occasion requires.

4. The resolutions of the Wiesbaden Conference will be submitted to the individual Societies for their approval and sanction. The Societies will then, by the end of the year 1899, definitely inform some central authority appointed by the Conference, whether they intend or not to join.

5. Each Society is free to withdraw from the Association at any time.

6. The Royal Academy of Sciences (Berlin), in conjunction with the Royal Society (London), has invited the following bodies (here arranged in alphabetical order) to attend the Wiesbaden Conference:

1. Königliche Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften at Göttingen.

2. Königliche Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften at Leipsic.

3. Königliche Akademie der Wissenschaften at Munich.

4. Académie des Sciences at Paris.

5. Académie Impériale des Sciences at St. Petersburg.

6. Reale Accademia dei Lincei at Rome.

7. Kaiserliche Akademie der Wissenschaften at Vienna.

8. National Academy at Washington.

7. The question of the eventual admission of other Societies will be discussed at the Wiesbaden meeting.

8. Each body will exercise its own judgment concerning the number of representatives to be sent to Wiesbaden. At the voting the representatives of each Society will have but a joint vote.

9. The language to be used at the Conference will be optional: the minutes will be drawn up in English, French and German.

10. The Royal Society proposes that the first official meeting of the Association be held in the year 1900, in Paris.

All communications referring to the Wiesbaden Conference are to be directed to the 'Bureau der Königlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften,' Berlin, N. W., Universitätsstrasse 8.

PLAN FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION PRESENTED BY SIR MICHAEL FOSTER AND DR. H. P. BOWDITCH.

1. The members of the National Academies mentioned in the 'plan for the foundation of an international association of learned societies' (Berlin, June, 1899), together with those of such other Academies as may be chosen by a majority vote of the Academies represented at the preliminary conference in Wiesbaden in October, 1899, shall constitute an International Scientific Association.

2. The first meeting of the Association shall be held in Paris in 1900, and its subsequent meetings shall be held at such times and places as may be then or thereafter determined.

3. By a two-thirds vote of the Association, each Academy voting as a unit, representative Academies of other nations may be admitted to membership in the Association.

4. The objects of the Association are :

(*a*) To promote and make preliminary preparations for work requiring international coöperation for its prosecution.

(*b*) To facilitate intercourse, both professional and social, between scientific men of all countries.

5. The governing body of the Association shall be an International Council composed of one representative from each constituent Academy.

6. The Council shall hold its first meeting at such time and place as may be determined at the meeting of the Association in 1900, and shall make rules for its own organization and guidance, including the transaction of business by correspondence.

7. For the purpose of considering and framing recommendations concerning scientific enquiries calling for international coöperation special International Committees shall, upon recommendation of one or more constituent Academies, be instituted either at a general meeting of the Association, or when necessary during the intervals between such meetings, by the International Council.

8. Such International Committee shall consist of delegates appointed by the constituent Academies with special reference to their qualification to deal with the questions under consideration.

9. The first meeting of such a Committee shall be called by the President of the International Association or by the President of the Council, and at this meeting each committee shall adopt rules for its own guidance.

10. Each International Committee shall make a report embodying such recommendations as it may think advisable, to the President of the International Council who shall transmit the same to the constituent Academies.

11. The President of the Council shall, however, have power, if he see fit, before transmitting such reports to the constituent Academies, to submit the same to the Council, and this body shall have power to refer back the report to the committee for further consideration.

12. For the transaction of business, the President of the Council shall be authorized to employ a secretary whose compensation, as well as other necessary office expenses, shall be provided for by contributions from the constituent Academies.

DELEGATES TO THE WIESBADEN CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 9 AND 10, 1899.

1. Königlich preussische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin : Auwers Virchow, Diels.

2. Königliche Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften, Göttingen : Ehlers, Leo.

3. Königlich Sächsische Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften, Leipzig : Windisch, Wislicenus.

4. Royal Society, London : Sir M. Foster, Rücker, Armstrong, Schuster.

5. Königlich Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, München : von Zittel, Bechmann, Dyck, von Sicherer.

6. Académie des Sciences, Paris: Darboux, Moissan.

7. Kaiserliche Akademie der Wissenschaften, St. Petersburg : Famintzine, Salemann.

8. National Academy of Sciences, Washington : Newcomb, Billings, Remsen, Bowditch, Bell.

9. Kaiserliche Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien : von Hartel, Mussafia, von Lang, Lieben. Ersatzdelegirte : Gomperez, Toldt.

BLUE FOX TRAPPING ON THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS.

THE value of the Blue Fox, *Vulpes lagopus*, as a fur-bearing animal, has caused the establishment of various 'fox farms' or 'ranches,' not only on the islands of the northwest coast, and especially in the Aleutian chain, but even on some of the islands off the coast of Maine ; and it is naturally desirable to ascertain how these may be made to yield the best results. The problem of the 'fox farmer' is to obtain the greatest number of skins in a given season without so reducing the breeding animals as to lessen the catch for the succeeding year. Natural losses, due to starvation, may be prevented by feeding, but as foxes are naturally monogamous, it is evidently necessary to render them polygamous in order to render fox-raising a decided success, and this is the great desire of the trappers.

On the Pribilof Islands, in Bering Sea, the Blue Fox has been trapped continuously